GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:313
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2001
POLICY ON STONE MINING
RAM SHAKAL

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy regarding stone mining;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some State Governments are violating the Supreme Court`s directions in regard to stone mining;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of such cases detected so far in each State particularly in Uttar Pradesh; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO.313 SLATED FOR ANSWER IN THE LOK SABHA ON THE 19TH MARCH,2001 ASKED BY SHRI RAM SHAKAL REGARDING POLICY ON STONE MINING.

(a) to (e): Under Section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation)(MMDR)Act, 1957, building stones including marble, granite and other decorative and dimensional stones are minor minerals for which mineral concessions are granted by the concened State Governments under the provisions of their respective Minor Mineral Concession Rules(MMCR)MMCRs are notified by the State Governments under the powers conferred on them under Section 15 of the MMDRAct. State Governments are free to frame their own policies regarding stone mining under their respective MMCRs.While framing such a policy, the State Governments are expected to keep in mind judicial pronouncements.
In case of Granite which has assumed importance due to its export potential, Central Government have notified Granite Conservation and Development Rules, 1999 in exercise of powers conferred by Section 18 of the MMDR,Act for conservation and systematic development and scientific mining to conserve the granite resources and to prescribe an uniform frame-work with regard to systematic and scientific exploitation of granite through out the country.
Central Government does not maintain any information/data about violation of provisions of MMCRs readwith MMDRAct. The State Governments are expected to act as per any direction given by the Supreme Court with respect to stone mining.Responsibility for checking illegal mining, if any, rests with the State Governments in accordance with the provisions of their MMCR in this regard and the Central Government does not monitor such information.